

HB 5486 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE ASSAULT OF A SPORTS OFFICIAL

My name is ARNOLD MANN and my address is 25 Huntington Circle Hamden, Ct. I have been a resident of the State of Connecticut for my entire life. My employment history is a retired Internal Revenue Service Examination Division (Mid Level Manager) Agent with 37 years of service. I have been a baseball official for the past 40 plus years. I also have been training new baseball officials for the past 20 years and have been assigning approximately 200 baseball umpires to their assignments for the past 20 years.

During this period I have had instances of an official being attacked on the baseball field resulting in a broken nose. In addition, one of my officials was attacked by a teenage player on the baseball field resulting in hospitalization for an aggravation of a Vietnam War injury. Two years ago a group of parents went after two officials and it took six police officers to settle matters. Last year, a very large assistant coach came after me only to be detoured off by several parents and other coaches. Three officers were called to the scene but the assistant coach had flown back to New York. Scenes similar to these are occurring on almost a daily basis and only through the assistance of more level headed persons are assaults being prevented.

We need a law with more teeth than just an assault charge to be in place to protect sports officials. I am finding it more difficult to recruit new officials as they fear for their safety in light of the recent assaults as highlighted in the news media

Please do not wait until another tragedy happens. Please give us the added protection needed to enable us to do what we do best in a safe environment

Thank You

Arnold Mann